

East Central Energy

Board Operating Policy ES-17 **Distributed generation/Net metering**

The objective of this policy is to establish the application procedure and qualification criteria for all members for the delivery, interconnection, metering and purchase of electricity from distributed generation facilities and to comply with applicable laws and rules governing distributed generation.

East Central Energy (ECE) recognizes its obligation to provide an interconnection to qualifying facilities that are eligible for distributed generation and will comply with all applicable laws and rules governing distributed generation.

I. DEFINED TERMS

A. For purposes of this policy, the following terms have the meaning given them:

1. Net Metering/Net Billing - the process whereby the member and ECE compensate each other based on the difference in the amount of energy each sells to the other at the net metered facility.
2. Net Metered Facility - an electric generation facility constructed for the purpose of offsetting energy use through the use of renewable energy or high efficiency generation sources.
3. Average Retail Energy Rate - the average of the retail energy rates, exclusive of special rates based on income, age, or energy conservation, according to the applicable rate schedule of ECE for sales to the class of member of which the member/qualifying facility belong.
4. Avoided Costs - the incremental costs to ECE of electric energy or capacity or both, which, but for the purchase from the qualifying facility, ECE would generate itself or purchase from another source.
5. Interconnection Rules - means any applicable Cooperative Cogeneration Rules developed in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 216B.164 and 216B.1611 that include issues outlined in the Cooperative Minnesota Interconnection Process (C-MIP).

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6. Interconnection Application - the member signature on the interconnection application indicates the member shall follow the steps outlined in the Cooperative Cogeneration Rules and the C-MIP. The interconnection between the qualifying facility or net metered facility and the utility must comply with the requirements as stated in the C-MIP.
 7. Contract - the written agreement between the member/qualifying facility and ECE as established in the Cooperative Cogeneration Rules.
 8. Total Generator Nameplate Capacity - the total kW output of a qualifying facility's generator. For purposes of this definition, total output is determined by the nameplate capacity rating, or in the event that the nameplate capacity is not less than 40 kW, then the existence of any variable speed drive or other limiting device shall be factored into determining total generator nameplate capacity. The member must fully, accurately and completely disclose in its interconnection plan to ECE, the technical specifications for any capacity limiting device contemplated and the member shall furnish ECE with any factory manuals or other similar documents requested from ECE regarding such limiting or other control devices which factor into the calculation of total generator nameplate capacity.
 9. Measured Capacity - for purposes of determining capacity, it shall be measured based on the highest fifteen (15)-minute average demand of the unit in any one billing period.
- B. In the event an inconsistency exists between terms in this policy and those established by Statute, Rule, or Court Order, then the definition so established shall supersede the definition used in this policy and shall govern.

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II. ELIGIBILITY

All members are eligible for distributed generation, interconnection with ECE's distribution system and application of net metering upon the following terms and conditions.

- A. The member must meet the eligibility requirements set forth in the federal Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, (PURPA) *18 C.F.R. 292.303, 292.304 and Minnesota's Distributed Generation laws. Minn. Stat. §216B.164.
- B. The member shall complete, sign and return to ECE an Interconnection Application. The Application shall be approved by ECE prior to the member beginning the project.
- C. At ECE's request, the member shall meet with an individual designated by ECE for the purpose of discussing the proposed generator characteristics and allowing ECE's input in sizing the load for the proposed generator.
- D. The member shall enter into a written contract with ECE using the uniform cooperative contract contained in the Cooperative Cogeneration Rules.
- E. The qualifying facility shall pay ECE for all reasonable costs of interconnection, including those costs outlined in the Minnesota Statute 216B.164, the C-MIP and the Interconnection Technical Requirements as established in PUC Docket CI-01-1023.
- F. The qualifying facility's total generator nameplate capacity shall be less than 40 kW and the facility shall operate at a measured capacity of less than 40 kW at all times.
- G. ECE may limit the capacity and operating characteristics of distributed generation single phase-generators in a manner consistent with the utility limitations for single- phase motors when necessary to avoid a qualifying facility from causing problems with the service of other members.
- H. ECE may require the qualifying facility to discontinue parallel generation operations when necessary for system safety.
- I. The power output from the qualifying facility must be maintained so that frequency and voltage are compatible with normal utility service and do not cause that service to fall outside the prescribed limits of commission rules and other standard limitations.

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- J. The qualifying facility shall keep in force liability insurance against personal or property damage due to the installation, interconnection, and operation of its electric generating facilities. The amount of insurance coverage shall be the maximum amount of said insurance for a qualifying facility or net metered facility as outlined in the Cooperative Interconnection Requirements and proof of the same shall be furnished annually to ECE.
- K. Failure of the qualifying facility to operate its generators at a measured capacity below the 40kW capacity limit established by M.S. 216B.164, Sub. 3 and as contemplated by this policy, shall result in the following:
- 1) ECE will notify the member/qualifying facility of the fact that its generating equipment has failed to operate below the 40kW maximum capacity and will provide the member/qualifying facility with the date, time and kW reading that substantiate this finding.
 - 2) ECE shall compensate the member/qualifying facility for all metered electricity produced by said qualifying facility during the thirty (30)-day period during which the failure occurred, at ECE's Generation and Transmission Supplier's avoided cost rate.
 - 3) ECE shall continue to pay the member/qualifying facility for subsequent electricity produced and delivered pursuant to this distributed generation agreement, at ECE's Generation and Transmission Supplier's avoided cost rate until:
 - a) The problem with the generator that caused it to operate at or above the statutory maximum capacity has been remedied; and
 - b) ECE has been provided documentation adopted by a registered professional engineer who confirms the problem with the generator has been remedied.
- After the above has successfully occurred and for a period of twelve months thereafter, the member/qualifying facility will be compensated for electricity produced and delivered pursuant to this Agreement at ECE's avoided cost rate. Thereafter, the member/qualifying facility will again be compensated pursuant to the Contract, at ECE's average retail energy rate, beginning on the first day after the twelfth month following successful completion of the conditions identified in subdivision 12(c) 1 and 2 herein.
- L. Any member account eligible for net metering and the net billing rate may not be eligible for any other load management discounts unless agreed to by ECE.

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- M. Patronage allocations for purchases under this net-metering relationship shall be based only on the net energy amount purchased from ECE for the year.
- N. Payment for the purchase of distributed generation electricity herein shall be in the form of a credit on the member's monthly billing invoice or paid by check or electronic payment service to the member within fifteen (15) days of the billing date, whichever is selected and indicated in the Contract.
- O. In the event of a metering malfunction, it will be assumed that no member-owned distributed generation electricity was provided to the electrical grid during the period of equipment failure unless the consumer can provide metered delivery data.
- P. The member must be, and continue to be, current with payment on their electric account with ECE.
- Q. In the event the distributed generator fails to meet the requirements of this policy for a Total Generator Nameplate Capacity of less than 40 kW, and fails to satisfy the corrective requirements set forth in Section 12 above, ECE will have the right to (1) cancel the Contract with the owner of the distributed generator, and (2) enter into a new contract with the owner of the distributed generator that, among other changes, adjusts the distributed generator's rated capacity and specifies avoided cost pricing for the distributed generator's output. To the extent that ECE does not have the obligation to make purchases from qualifying facilities of 40 kW or greater due to transfer of the obligation to ECE's wholesale supplier that has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the new agreement will be between ECE's wholesale supplier and the distributed generator. In either case, ECE (and as applicable ECE's wholesale supplier) and the owner of the distributed generator will cooperate in the transition from the form of contract set forth in ECE's adopted cogeneration rules to a new form of contract appropriate to a distributed generator with a capacity of 40 kW or greater.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

It shall be the responsibility of the President/CEO to implement this policy. ECE management supports member-owned distributed generation projects and will adhere to the laws, rules and regulations relating thereto for those projects with a capacity less than 40 kW.

ECE Rider DG shall direct the billing and terms of payment.

I, Linda Laitala, secretary-treasurer of East Central Energy, do hereby certify this policy was adopted by the ECE Board of Directors on June 21, 2002 and revised on March 22, 2019.



Linda Laitala, Secretary-Treasurer

Adopted: 6/21/02
Revised: 1/20/05, 12/19/08, 3/25/11, 8/23/13, 1/19/18, 3/23/18, 3/22/19
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